



Community
Pharmacy
Agreement

EMERGENCY LOCUM SERVICE

Effective from 1 July 2015

Programme Specific Guidelines are currently available in draft form and will shortly be updated to comply with the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. Updates to these programme guidelines will not change the intent of this programme, but will provide additional clarity for participants. This programme will continue to operate under these draft guidelines until updated programme guidelines are published.

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES



Australian Government
Department of Health



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Background.....	3
3.	Eligibility.....	3
3.1	Pharmacy Eligibility.....	3
3.2	Emergency Eligibility.....	3
3.3	Rural and Remote Location Eligibility.....	3
4.	Application process.....	4
5.	Important information.....	4
6.	Resources.....	4
	Contact Details.....	4

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PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

1. INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the Programme Specific Guidelines governing the Emergency Locum Service (ELS) Programme. This document must be read in conjunction with 6CPA General Terms and Conditions. Definitions in the 6CPA General Terms and Conditions apply in these Programme Specific Guidelines.

The Emergency Locum Service is an initiative of the Rural Pharmacy Workforce Programme (RPWP). The RPWP is designed to strengthen and support the rural pharmacy workforce, in turn to provide increased access to quality pharmacy services for consumers residing in rural and remote regions of Australia.

RPWP is part of the suite of Rural Support Programmes funded under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement to support targeted programmes and services which improve access to PBS medicines and services for people living in rural and remote regions of Australia.

2. BACKGROUND

ELS supports Community Pharmacies in rural and remote areas through direct access to pharmacist locums in emergency situations. Locums are deployed at short notice, generally in under 24 hours to provide relief in urgent and emergency situations.

The primary aim of the ELS is to alleviate the hardships faced by Community Pharmacies based in rural and remote communities in accessing locum services. It provides for locum services to Community Pharmacies who are faced with an emergency situation that will affect the provision of pharmacy services to the community.

The ELS Programme assists Community Pharmacies by funding up to \$2500 (ex GST) to contribute towards the travel costs between the locum's home and the Community Pharmacy location. The cost of pharmacist locum wages are not covered.

The ELS Programme is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Emergency locum placements are for a minimum of one (1) day and a maximum of seven (7) consecutive days.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Pharmacy Eligibility

To be eligible for the purposes of the ELS Programme, applicants must:

- 1 Be a Community Pharmacy;
- 2 Be located in a rural or remote location as defined by these Guidelines; and
- 3 Be unable to undertake dispensing duties or to fully and effectively operate the pharmacy due to an emergency situation as defined by these Guidelines.

3.2 Emergency Eligibility

To be considered eligible for the purposes of the ELS Programme, an emergency situation must be where:

- 1 the pharmacist is unable to undertake dispensing duties or to fully and effectively operate the pharmacy due to illness or injury; or
- 2 a family emergency requires the pharmacist to be present at an alternative location, or take action that renders him/her unavailable to undertake dispensing duties or to fully and effectively operate the pharmacy. A "family emergency" is defined as:
 - (a) illness or injury to a member of immediate family;
 - (b) illness or injury to a dependent relative; or
 - (c) bereavement due to death of a member of immediate family.

3.3 Rural and Remote Location Eligibility

For the purposes of the ELS Programme, an Eligible Pharmacy must be located in a rural or remote location, which is defined as PhARIA 2–6.

The PhARIA index can be accessed at www.gisca.adelaide.edu.au/projects/pharia.html

The current financial year PhARIA data will be applied to determine eligibility.

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria must submit a completed official application form and attach all required documentation in order to be considered, including documentation to support the nature of the emergency.

Applicants are responsible for:

- 1 Providing sufficient information on the application form to determine eligibility and recruit a suitable locum;
- 2 Accepting the locum pharmacist offered; and
- 3 Organising and paying the wages and accommodation costs of the locum for the duration of the placement.

In cases where the nature of the emergency situation prevents completion of the application form, this requirement may be waived, and the form lodged within ten (10) working days of the original request for assistance, in which case a fax advice and/or email will constitute an interim application form.

There is no limit on the number of times a Community Pharmacy may access the ELS Programme, subject to provision of adequate documentation and the availability of funds.

The ELS Programme is limited on the basis of available funds. Lodging an application does not guarantee access to the ELS Programme. Consequently, Community Pharmacies satisfying the eligibility criteria will not necessarily receive access to the ELS Programme.

A link to the application form may be obtained from www.els.com.au or www.6cpa.com.au

5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Guild may provide the Department of Health with information about the assessment and allocation of services, the allocation of funds and on any issues that may arise in relation to a particular application.

6. RESOURCES

Access the Emergency Locum Service via:
1800 357 001 (toll free)

www.els.com.au

Emergency Locum Service information can also be found at www.6cpa.com.au

CONTACT

6CPA Support Team
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